Water Flow in Rivers

†1725. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water to the extent of 300 million gallons flows in the rivers without being utilized;

(b) the details in this regard; and

(c) to what extent Government have succeeded with the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process of evaporation and transpiration through vegetation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. Owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is assessed as 1122 BCM out of which 690 BCM is the surface water and 432 BCM is replenishable ground water. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to rivers and seas.

The water resources is presently being utilised for meeting the requirement for various purposes through development of surface as well as ground water. With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storage, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and better management practices etc.

Linking of Major Rivers

1726. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted by the Central Government for the efficient utilization of water resources of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the Group, the meetings held and the on-the-spot assessment visits made by the Group so far;

(c) whether any achievements were made by the Group in this regard to the efficient use of water resources so far;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.